United Nations A/60/976–S/2006/638

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
14 August 2006

Original: English

**General Assembly**
**Sixtieth session**
Agenda items 12 and 32

**Prevention of armed conflict**

**Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-first year**

## Identical letters dated 11 August 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to request your kind assistance in circulating as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 12 and 32, and of the Security Council, the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia of 10 August 2006 on the latest developments in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

(*Signed*) Kaha **Chitaia**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

06-46521 (E) 210806

## Annex to the identical letters dated 11 August 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

### Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Additional armed troops, which were deployed by the Abkhazian side in the villages of the lower Gali district, force local Georgians to dig trenches for separatist armed formations, following the instructions of the Abkhazian administration in the Gali district.

It is a vivid example of forced labour banned unequivocally by all international human rights documents, including Article 8 of the Pact on Civil and Political Rights, Convention N 105 of the International Labour Organization and Article 4 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

All these international agreements represent an integral part of the Georgian legislation and are legally binding throughout the entire territory of Georgia, including Abkhazia. Besides, the Protocol under paragraph 4 of the Moscow Agreement of 14 May, 1994 stipulates that the CIS peacekeeping forces, while performing their functions, are obliged to comply with the requirements of Georgia's domestic laws and regulations.

However, Russian peacekeepers continue to act in defiance of their mandated obligations, turning a blind eye to gross violation of law and human rights taking place in their very presence.

We call upon the CIS peacekeeping forces and their leadership to employ all means at their disposal in order to put an immediate end to the use of forced labour on the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia.

We also urge the UN Observer Mission in Georgia, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and the international community to give due assessment to the efforts of the separatist regime and their patrons acting under the cover of 'peacekeepers', which aim at introducing the much-maligned GULAG practices in one of the regions of Georgia – Abkhazia.

At the same time, the existing situation in the Gali district leads us to register once more the incapability (or the absence of will) of the CIS peacekeeping forces to duly perform their functions, which points yet again to the necessity of modifying the existing format of peace operation and the legislative basis.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia condemns the separatist regime's unlawful practices and the inaction of the CIS peacekeepers and believes that in contrast with our dedicated efforts to establish stability and achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict, the acts of the Abkhazian side lay bare the genuine character of their destructive and aggressive goals and aspirations.

Tbilisi, August 10, 2006